

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 14, 2008

The First Meeting of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton PA. President Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg, President	James Klass
Joan Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	Tony Verenna
David Williams	

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Mayor David S. Perruso, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere, Chief Richard Nace, Superintendent Greg Drake and Fire Chief Michael Collins

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 24, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Starniri.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Mike Lizzano of 821 Miller Street appeared before Council to discuss a situation involving the Police Department. Approximately two weeks ago, he observed two Hispanic males looking into and trying to open vehicles parked on Sycamore Street. Ten minutes later Mr. Lizzano called the non-emergency phone number to report the incident. The call went out from the center at 3:57 p.m. The officer in duty passed the call off to the next shift which would begin at 4:00 p.m. The police officer drove by the area, but did not stop. A car window was smashed. The glass went into the vehicle and was not seen by the officer. Officer Potope did respond to a call around 6:00 p.m. Chief Nace and Mayor Perruso read the incident reports to Mr. Lizzano. In cases such as these, Mr. Lizzano was instructed to call 911 and not the non-emergency number. An officer would have responded right away. Mr. Lizzano also stated that numerous car windows were broken 2 weeks prior to this incident.

Mr. Lizzano also had visibility issues with vehicles parked near the intersection of Freemansburg Avenue and Miller Street. Chief Nace has spoken to one of the owners of the vehicles and Mr. Drake had the area posted "No Trucks". Mr. Lizzano suggested having the street made one way into Miller Street. A change in traffic pattern would require a traffic study. Mr. Drake and the Public Works committee were asked to take a look at the problem and offer recommendations to solve the problem.

2. Jim Dolan from the Palmer Volunteer Fire Company appeared before Council regarding a letter that was sent to him regarding their annual picnic. Mr. Dolan apologized that the garbage was not removed from the picnic area last year. Due to a problem in the company, he had not received the letter explaining the cleanup procedure until after the event. Mr. Dolan promised Council that there would be a big difference this year after the picnic. Motion to allow the Palmer Volunteer Fire Company to hold their annual picnic at Meuser Park by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Schug.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from the Wilson Borough Recreation Board requesting any funds budgeted for them be disbursed. Mr. Feinberg inquired about why the Recreation Board had \$60,757.00 on account at the end of last year. Mr. Reiss wanted to know why the funds were not given out for dugouts and a sound system when Rec Board had the money. Council discussed the grant application for dugouts from Representative Freeman that had been turned down a few weeks ago. Mr. Verenna had a problem with charging such high fees for participation in baseball if Rec Board had money. Mr. Minotti stated that Rec Board should only have a surplus balance if it was going to go for a specific purpose. Motion to disburse budgeted funds to Rec Board by Mr. Klass. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Motion was defeated by a six to three vote. Mr. Reiss requested that Rec Board use the money that had been given to them. Mayor Perruso stated that he had spoken to Representative Freeman and he was still willing to give baseball the funds for the dugouts in the fall if they had permission from the school district to put them in.

2. A letter was received from the Avona Volunteer Fire Company requesting to had a Pig Roast in Meuser Park on July 19, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both pavilions and the band shell will be used. Motion to approve request by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Starniri.

3. A letter of resignation from the Mary Meuser Library Board was received from Marjorie Bush. Motion to approve the request by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Starniri. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Mr. Redington and he will see if there are any interested parties among the regular library customers.

4. A letter was received from the Wilson Area School District requesting permission to close the 2200 block of Washington Blvd. on Monday, May 5, 2008 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for an event. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.

5. The following two bids were received on Housing Rehab project HR06-10:

S.J. Sawyer & Company	\$29,550.00
Dutt Construction	\$21,920.00

Mr. Schug suggested Council should pick the lowest bid. However, Mr. Feinberg requested that Mr. Corriere and the Housing Rehab committee review the bids as there is quite a discrepancy in the bid figures. Motion by Mr. Verenna to accept the lowest bid under the assumption that it follows the project specifications. Second by Mr. Starniri.

6. A letter was received from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church requesting permission to hang a banner across Northampton Street to advertise their Annual Spring Festival two weeks prior to May 16, 2008. Motion to approve request by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Williams. Mr. Starniri reminded Council that insurance was required. Ms. Lohrman responded that the church has always been agreeable to any of our requests.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has observed that the Hillside Avenue parking arrangement seems to be a success.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman asked Council if they were willing to hold and participate in a Government Day this year. Last year the event was not held. Council agreed to hold Government Day on May 12, 2008. Ms. Lohrman will notify the school district.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received a request for a letter of support from Palmer Township for a Northampton County grant they will be applying for. The grant funds will be used to complete the one mile of recreation trail along the Bushkill Creek. Motion to authorize the letter to be completed on behalf of Palmer Township by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Klass.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received notification from Borough Engineer Amy Riddle Montgomery that the proposed plans for the bocce courts have been completed. Ms. Montgomery has requested a meeting with the bocce committee to review the plans. The meeting will be set up for Monday, April 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Lohrman will notify Ms. Montgomery.

Mr. Reiss inquired about the tree that has to come down in the bocce court area. Mr. Klass responded that it would probably cost several thousand dollars to have it removed. Three quotes will be required if the price is less than \$10,000.00. Mr. Drake suggested that the Public Works department set up their chipper and use that. It would help lower the cost. Motion to get three estimates for the project by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Klass.

4. Ms. Lohrman has received a request from Mr. Drake and Mr. Behler for the use of Work Order Requests to be used for persons asking for work to be done by their department. Mayor Perruso stated that he was accused of asking the department to paint the community center and he had not. Mr. Klass stated that he had requested the painting to be done. Ms. Lohrman felt the work orders were a good idea. She will be better able to see what projects the department is working on and then better be able follow up to make sure the work is completed. A sample request was in Council packets. Motion by Mr. Verenna to use the work order requests as presented. Second by Mr. Klass.

5. Ms. Lohrman has received sample fee schedules and professional escrow agreement from Dave Jones of Boucher & James, Inc. Mr. Jones supplied the information at the request of Mr. Reiss and Mr. Verenna. Mr. Minotti was provided the information in his packet. He felt that Council should revisit the topic. Ms. Lohrman will supply the sample information to the General Government Committee along with the current information.

6. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Ms. Montgomery has been notified by the Northampton County Conservation District that our re-submitted submission was found to administratively complete and will be forwarded to the DEP. The application should be logged in the DEP's system by the end of the month. The 30 day window of review will begin then. The Erosion and Sedimentation review letter was prepared on April 9, 2008. Ms. Montgomery will begin making revisions as soon as she receives the letter.

7. Ms. Lohrman has received the Workmen's Comp proposal from Brown & Brown Insurance. The 2008-2009 premium is \$108,606.00. The premium includes the 5% safety committee discount and is a \$2,000.00 decrease from last year.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins requested placing Caleb Larsen on the on-call firefighting list. Mr. Larsen is interested in attending Fire classes in the fall. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Reiss.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri reminded Council that the accreditation SOP manual has been available for review for several weeks. The Mayor and several Police committee members have taken the opportunity to review it. It is currently being reviewed by Chief Nace. Mr. Klass suggested having the committee meet with the accreditation managers.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake was one estimate to fix the roof at the pool pavilion from JLK Contracting. It is for \$4,895.00. He will be soliciting for several more estimates.
2. Mr. Drake has spoken to HomeDepot. They may be willing to donate paint once the graffiti matter is resolved.
3. Mr. Drake thanked the Wilson Lions Club for the use of the trailer.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass requested Mr. Drake to put the hours of pre-sale pool passes on the board at the park. The prices are the same as last year.
2. Mr. Klass informed Council that the Pool committee had interviewed four applicants for the management positions. All the applicants were well represented. The interview consisted of the applicants being asked ten questions. The recommendation from the committee is to hire Marlowe Wacik as the Pool Manager and Jodi Polomchak as the Assistant Pool Manager. Motion to approve the recommendation of the committee by Mr. Klass. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a six to three vote. Mr. Reiss commented that the pool deficit will be increasing again.
3. Mr. Drake informed Council that four of his employees including himself have become Certified Pool Operators.
4. Mr. Drake requested estimates from four companies for sandblasting the swimming pools. Mr. Drake has received estimates from two of the companies. The lowest estimate was from Dectis Painting for \$4,700.00. The other estimate was for \$7,000.00. Motion by Mr. Klass to approve the estimate from Dectis Painting. Second by Ms. Lilly. Mr. Drake was requested to document the information in a file.
5. Mr. Klass informed Council that a small root had uplifted the asphalt in the large pavilion. It has been dug out and replaced.
6. Mr. Drake has received a complaint about cracks in the tennis courts. Mr. Drake will repair the cracks, but Council may need to consider resurfacing the courts in the next few years.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti has almost completed the fine and oversized vehicle ordinance revisions. Most of the fines will be \$15 or \$30. Several of the fines are mandated by the state. He will give Ms. Lohrman a copy for Council's review at the next meeting.
2. Mr. Minotti and Chief Collins have reviewed the rental inspection ordinance. Mr. Minotti will work with Chief Collins and make sure the proper codes in the place within the ordinance. Mr. Feinberg will be attending the Rental Inspection class sponsored by PSAB in May.
3. Mr. Minotti has the Police Collective Bargaining Contract. He will give it to Ms. Lohrman for proper execution. The Police have already signed the contract. The Drug and Alcohol testing portion of the contract has not been completed.
4. Mr. Minotti will forward the information on veterans real estate tax exemptions to Ms. Lohrman for future reference.
5. Mr. Minotti requested a Caucus on a litigation matter.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Northampton. The meeting will be held to set up the annual tour. Mr. McGowan stated that the next COG meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Forks Township. Mr. McGowan will not be able to attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that the Borough was expecting a quote for the speaker system for the next meeting. Mr. Starniri hopes that it would be easily repairable.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Verenna expressed his concern that the funds appropriated to the Recreation Board would be lost for the remainder of the year. He felt the funds could be used for entry fees so the children would not have to pay such high prices for play sports. Ms. Lohrman responded that the funds would remain in the budget unless Council uses it for something. Mayor Perruso stated that the school district may stop giving money to the Recreation Board also.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$97,342.65 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Verenna.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY